

Dudley Board Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2007

Members present: Harvey Patashnick, Sam Wait, Ellen Fladger, Jim Comly, Lucy Comly, Alan French, Janie Schwab, Ray Bogucki, Mary Kosky, Cherrice Traver, Dan Wulff, Heidi Newberg

Old Business

The minutes of September 20, 2006, were moved (Sam Wait), seconded (Jim Comly) and accepted unanimously.

Janie Schwab presented the Executive Director's report. Activities reported included a Potluck Dinner at the Landis Arboretum for Albany Amateur Astronomers (AAAA) and Rising Star Interns (RSIs); the oral history project reports for Archives Week; the Schenectady Holiday Street Fair Dudley booth attended each night by about 130 people; and two star parties. Janie reported that Dudley is a member of the Albany Chamber of Commerce which has a section for not-for-profit organizations. She also presented on NPR with Steve Russo. Fund raising activities this year include \$400 for filters for RSIs; \$900, shared with the Schenectady Museum and AAAA and HHP, for solar observing equipment; and \$4000 from general donations.

Harvey Patashnick, President, noted that he will provide the new member slide presentation following the Board meeting to Jean Sheviak, Mary Crone Odekon, and Heidi Newberg. He reported on the Memorandum of Understanding meetings held December 19, 2006, with Mike Messitt of SUNY at Albany. SUNY is favorably inclined to the affiliation with Dudley and the MOU is currently being reviewed by SUNY. The most difficult issue is free parking for Board members and public events. Another item under discussion is access to the SUNY library computer system. No other major issues have surfaced.

Ellen Fladger reported on the Library Committee background discussions with SUNY at Albany. Brian Keough, Head M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, measured the current Dudley library holdings which were then reviewed with Mike Messitt, Assistant Dean for Advancement, College of Arts and Sciences. . Note was made that Harvey and Janie met with Messitt to make clear that Dudley was not donating its library and that we would be willing to work jointly on fund raising for equipment needed for proper maintenance (not requested by SUNY). SUNY has sent a Memorandum of Understanding for review. Ellen has reviewed Dudley's concerns with Frank D'Andraia, Dean and Director of Libraries, specifically the means of access to our library when it is located at SUNY and interlibrary loans. She presented a list of questions from Frank D'Andraia that will be under discussion on January 29. Ellen noted that the committee will know by the end of March the extent to which the library can be reduced. At that time the Board will need to decide on actions to be taken. The artifacts are listed on the Dudley website; no review or decisions has been made on these items. Paul Luther, bookseller and appraiser, will visit in February. Dudley questions for SUNY focus on security and restricted access; temperature and humidity control or air conditioning; access for Janie; and archives access. A separate question is whether our insurance plan will cover our collections at another location. It is hope that a list of items for inclusion by our lawyer in a library MOU will come from the January 29 meeting. A conclusion is desired by the late March-April Board meeting.

Sam Wait presented the Nominating Committee Selections for the Executive Committee for 2007-2008: Harvey Patashnick, President; Alan French, Vice-President; Jim Comly, Treasurer; and Lucy Comly, Secretary. The slate was unanimously approved.

Sam Wait, reporting for the Research Grants committee, noted that three applications had been received for the Pollock award: Trudy Bell; Michelle Montgomery (University of Central Florida) and a person from Bulgaria. The award is restricted to residents of North America. George Wise and Sam reviewed the applications and proposed Trudy Bell as the recipient. The motion to grant the Pollock award to Trudy Bell was moved (Sam Wait), seconded (Jim Comly) and unanimously carried.

Mary Kosky reported for the Education Grants Committee. The deadline for the Rising Star Interns has been extended to April 6. Two parents of Rising Star recipients, Mary Dawson and Sharon Haile, serve on the committee. The Hessberg and Alfred summer Camperships will be continued. Regents exams interfere with the Tucson camp while Alfred is local and offered at the right time. Three students were sent last summer. The Spenser campership has been dropped. Janie would like to develop Teacher Workshops pertaining to phases of the moon, the universe and star maps. These could become part of Dudley's move into the regional education in the math and sciences. Dan Wulff will look into funding sources through BOCESA and Tech Valley. Tech Valley has a summer program where students visit organizations for one day; they would like to visit Dudley on August 8. Payment has not been discussed. Janie needs a budget to develop hands-on, engaging materials for 24 eighth grade students and 4 teachers. Alan French will replace Mary Kosky as chair of the education committee.

Jim Comly, Treasurer, gave the Gala committee report. A gala is planned for November 16, 2007, at the Albany Institute of History and Art from 5:30-8:30. The event would be catered with hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and soda. Events would include silent auctions, a raffle and telescope observing.

Jim Comly also gave the financial report. We are on budget. The endowment is increasing in value despite our 5% withdrawal and the fact that the Common Fund missed its benchmarks for the first time. For management and reporting purposes, the restricted funds should be folded into the general endowment funds. The term "restricted" appears to have been designated by the Board not the donors. Jim will discuss their history with Roy Anderson. A fund raising committee is needed to list sources of grants and gifts and to define strategies. Funding for the move and for programs that will enhance Dudley's external recognition is needed. Lynda Blankenship has offered to research educational grants. The fund raising effort will be incorporated into the Finance and Physical Plant Committee.

New Business

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of Rita Spenser who retired in 1997 after serving many years as secretary for Dudley and head of the Friends of Dudley membership.

The Board extended its thanks to Mary Kosky who is moving to Georgia.

Harvey noted that quarterly Board meetings are planned and suggested Mondays at 7:00 PM. Proposed dates will be e-mailed.

A motion to adjourn was moved, seconded and carried.

Respectfully submitted, Lucy T. Comly, Secretary